

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
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O 051635Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8314
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5702

CPAETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NIGERIAN REACTION TO MAY 1 CONTACT GROUP
MEETING WITH SWAPO

REF: (A) USUN 01754, (B) STATE 113267

1. ON MAY 5 CHARGE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE MAY 1
MEETING OF CONTACT GROUP WITH SWAPO TO DR. FAFOWARA,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEA'S DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS
AND THE MINISTRY'S EXPERT ON NAMIBIA. CHARGE LEFT BEHIND
A SLIGHTLY EDITED VERSION OF REFTEL A.
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2. FAFOWARA SAID HE WAS NOT DISTURBED BY THE ATTITUDE
WHICH NUJOMA HAD DISPLAYED AT THE MAY 1 MEETING. HE
CONTENDED THAT THERE IS INDEED A NEED FOR CLARIFICATION OF
SOME POINTS IN THE CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSALS AND THAT
NUJOMA IS QUITE RIGHT TO INSIST THAT THESE AREAS NOW BE
EXPLORED. HE ARGUED THAT THIS IS ALL THE MORE THE

CASE IN VIEW OF THE MANNER IN WHICH SOUTH AFRICA COUCHED ITS SO-CALLED ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS. TWICE DURING THE CONVERSATION FAFOWARA ASKED WHETHER SWAPO WAS NOW BEING PRESSURED TO ACCEPT THE VIEWPOINTS WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAD EXPRESSED IN ITS "ACCEPTANCE" STATEMENT. CHARGE REPLIED THAT SWAPO WAS BEING URGED TO ACCEPT ONLY THE PROPOSALS OF THE CONTACT GROUP, AND NOT SOUTH AFRICAN COMMENTS ON THOSE PROPOSALS.

3. WHEN CHARGE EMPHASIZED THAT CONTACT GROUP COULD NOT AT THIS TIME ALTER ITS PROPOSALS AT THE REQUEST OF SWAPO BECAUSE THIS WOULD PROVIDE SOUTH AFRICA AN EASY EXCUSE TO WITHDRAW ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS, FAFOWARA RETORTED THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S SO-CALLED ACCEPTANCE WAS REALLY NO ACCEPTANCE AT ALL. CHARGE SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE APPEARS SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR SO THAT USG IS CONFIDENT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD FORMALLY ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS AS THEY STAND PROVIDED THAT SWAPO DID SO. THERE WAS REAL DANGER, HOWEVER, THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD REFUSE TO GIVE THE PROPOSALS ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION IF THEY WERE NOW ALTERED IN SOME RESPECTS AT THE REQUEST OF SWAPO.

4. IN SUPPORT OF HIS BASIC THESIS THAT NUJOMA TAKES A REASONABLE ATTITUDE REGARDING THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS, FAFOWARA MADE TWO POINTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST. HE SAID THAT GENERAL OBASANJO HAD URGED NUJOMA DURING THEIR LAST CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING NOT TO BE UNNECESSARILY DIFFICULT REGARDING THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE 1500 SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS LEFT IN NAMIBIA DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. NUJOMA AGREED THAT THIS WAS NOT A CRUCIAL POINT AND SAID HE WAS WILLING TO REcede FROM HIS PREVIOUS POSITION ON THIS POINT. ACCORDING TO FAFOWARA, NUJOMA ALSO TOLD OBASANJO THAT OTHER SWAPO LEADERS WOULD "CUT OFF MY HEAD" IF HE OBTAINED NO SATISFACTION REGARDING WALVIS BAY, BUT THAT SWAPO COULD LIVE WITH THE SITUATION IF THE USG MADE THE STATEMENT ON WALVIS BAY WHICH HAD BEEN PROMISED TO HIM.

5. COMMENT: THIS CONVERSATION SUGGESTS THAT WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO CONVINCE THE FMG THAT NUJOMA IS UNREASONABLY BLOCKING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS UNLESS WE PROVIDE VERY SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF HIS UNREASONABLE POSITION ON VARIOUS ISSUES. PERHAPS SUCH EVIDENCE WILL EMERGE FROM THE MAY 8 MEETING WITH SWAPO. TELLING THE FMG THAT SWAPO IS UNWILLING TO NARROW THE LIST OF REMAINING ISSUES WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO DO THE TRICK, HOWEVER.
WYMAN

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